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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/19/06
 SPONSOR Garcia, M.H. LAST UPDATED 1/20/06 HB 170
 SHORT TITLE NMSU Underrepresented Students Alliance SB _____
 ANALYST Lewis

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	328.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates SB 40

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED)

New Mexico State University (NMSU)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 170 appropriates \$328,000 from the general fund to Board of Regents of New Mexico State University (NMSU) to expand support for the Alliance for Underrepresented Students (AUS). According to NMSU the alliance supports student development at New Mexico institutions of higher education for the purpose of increasing retention and graduation of students (including minorities and students with disabilities) who are underrepresented in the Science, Math, Engineering, and Technology (STEM) disciplines.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$328,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2007 shall revert to the general fund.

According to the New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED), this appropriation du-

plicates the fiscal year 2007 base expansion request submitted by NMSU to NMHED and would nearly double the total annual budget for AUS to a total of \$676,100.

The funding increase for AUS is not included in HMHED's 2006 Legislative Priorities. Nor has any increase been included in the LFC's budget recommendation.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

According to the NMHED, this appropriation would allow AUS to add 2.0 FTE, bringing the program's total to 10.25 FTE.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The AUS project will continue to operate at its current funding level.

ML/mt